



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Trade Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 15 March 2010

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP
Deputy: Hon Bruce Scott MP

Ambassadors for Brazil and Uruguay to discuss trade and investment relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America

Federal parliament's Trade Sub-Committee will hear from the Ambassadors for Brazil and Uruguay this Wednesday (17 March), for its inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.

Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee, Janelle Saffin, welcomed the opportunity to hear from the Ambassadors because "the continuing interest showed by the countries of Latin America has been a major feature of this inquiry. Our growing relationship with those countries is opening up an area of trade and investment that has been rather neglected until recent years."

"The commencement of negotiations on the Trans Pacific Partnership and the decision by Australia and NZ to seek a recommencement of discussions with the MERCOSUR group, are important current developments."

"The aim of the inquiry is to find ways to further expand Australia's trade and investment opportunities in the regions included in the terms of reference. The countries of these regions already account for three-quarters of Australia's total trade."

Ms Saffin continued: "as the world financial crisis is now abating, it becomes all the more important to grasp new opportunities to develop our trade and investment relations. The countries of Latin America offer many opportunities to improve those ties. The Sub-Committee will be seeking to put some solid recommendations to the Government on ways to achieve those goals".

The Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hear from the **Ambassadors for Brazil and Uruguay on Wednesday, 17 March 2010**, from **10am** until **12:00 noon** in **Committee Room 1R2**, at Parliament House, Canberra.

This hearing will be webcast on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Submissions to the inquiry are still being accepted and may be emailed to jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

For all inquiries: please contact the Principal Research Officer of the Trade Sub-Committee by phone on (02) 6277 4547, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm>